

Amendment No. 2 to SB2226

Johnson  
Signature of Sponsor

**AMEND Senate Bill No. 2226**

**House Bill No. 1981\***

by deleting all language after the caption and substituting instead the following language:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 50, Chapter 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new part:

50-1-501. This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Healthy Workplace Act".

50-1-502. As used in this part:

(1) "Abusive conduct" includes acts or omissions that would cause a reasonable person, based on the severity, nature, and frequency of the conduct, to believe that an employee was subject to an abusive work environment, such as:

(A) Repeated verbal abuse in the workplace, including derogatory remarks, insults, and epithets;

(B) Verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct of a threatening, intimidating, or humiliating nature in the workplace; or

(C) The sabotage or undermining of an employee's work performance in the workplace; and

(2) "Employer" means any county, metropolitan government, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state.

50-1-503.

(a) By July 1, 2015, the Tennessee advisory commission on intergovernmental relations (TACIR), is directed to create a model policy for employers to prevent abusive

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conduct in the workplace. The model policy shall be developed in consultation with interested municipal and county organizations including, but not limited to, the Tennessee Municipal League, the Tennessee County Services Association, the municipal technical advisory service (MTAS), and the county technical assistance service (CTAS).

(b) The model policy shall:

(1) Assist employers in recognizing and responding to abusive conduct in the workplace; and

(2) Prevent retaliation against any employee who has reported abusive conduct in the workplace.

(c) By January 1, 2016, each employer shall adopt a policy to address abusive conduct in the workplace. The policy shall conform to the requirements of subsection (b). If an employer fails to adopt such a policy, then the model policy created by TACIR pursuant to subsection (a) shall apply to the employer.

50-1-504.

Notwithstanding § 29-20-205, if an employer adopts a policy that prohibits abusive conduct in the workplace, then the employer shall be immune from suit for any employee's abusive conduct that results in negligent or intentional infliction of mental anguish. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the personal liability of an employee for any abusive conduct in the workplace.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.